

**STATE EPIDEMIOLOGY OUTCOMES
WORKGROUP (SEOW)**

**First Meeting, March 16, 2006
Room 314, 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.**

**Utah Department of Human Services
Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
120 North 200 West, Suite 209
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Those in Attendance (Committed Staff Members of Utah's SEOW: Tricia Winder, Support Specialist, Brenda Ahlemann, Research Consultant, and Craig PoVey, Project Director of the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health; Angela Smart, Performance Development, from Utah Behavioral Health Care Education Corporation (UBHN); Jeff Smart, Prevention Manager of Salt Lake County Substance Abuse Services; Verne Larsen, State Office of Education, Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator; and Ed Ho, Ph.D., Survey Consultant, from Bach-Harrison. Excused: Christy Porucznik, Epidemiologist, Ph.D., University of Utah and State Health Department.

Those Possible Members Unable to Attend: Elizabeth Sollis, Information Officer from Executive Director's Office for Utah Department of Human Services; Barbara Sullivan, Ph.D., Research Assistant Director for University of Utah Addictions Center; and Dwayne Baird, Information Officer for Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH).

Meeting began at 10:45 a.m. , with introductions and greetings. The first Agenda item was to review the application. Find out what data is available or not available, and where to locate the information most important to this group's mission, and discuss ways of getting the information work group needs in order to complete the mission. This will be considered the group's first task.

Today's meeting objective is to discuss which agencies/representatives of agencies should be included, or invited to be a part of this work group.

Ed Ho informed group that he has been working with other states for this same objective. The Louisiana group is “up and running.” They have a group of about 40 persons presently. Ed said he would try to get a data system together throughout the participating states, or with other states. He noted that sometimes it is best to keep the number of participants in a work group low, to avoid too much complication or confusion of information flow for the group’s decision making process. It might be a better idea to have access to these special people in order to find information needed, and to make group decisions for this work group (SEOW).

Angela Smart wondered about having subcommittees. It was felt that right now, it would be better to keep the number of people in this work group to a minimum. Other committees may be needed later. It would be possible to rely on Utah Prevention Advisory Council (UPAC), and keep the work group’s connections to other agencies or persons open for contact and information.

All of the Health Department’s information is accessed through a “need to know” and special contacts, and some would be useful and easily accessible, with the right contact people. There is much information that would require a degree of clearance to access.

Substance Abuse Prevention Data is presently experiencing a big change in substance: leaning more now toward data from consequences; i.e., tobacco sales statistics. There is a “consequence of population” factor (SEDS).

Requirements: data available nationally.

Tie this somehow to substance abuse: tobacco, drugs, and/or alcohol.

25% of alcohol use

This is on the web. It can be downloaded for national or state’s use.

Data is only available from 2003. The most recent data is not that reliable yet. There may be changes or adjustments to be made. Sometimes data just doesn’t match, but at least it’s a place to start.

The measure is shifting to an “outcomes” base, or prevention, similar to the process used for SICA. We just need to see changes that are measurable.

Craig PoVey made a comment, “we are going to apply for The Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG).” This could start as soon as 1 October, 2006.

There is much data to check. We need to find out what is there, what we don’t have, and then work to fill those gaps. Money from this grant can help fill the holes (“Life” data?)

The group would like to have David Stein of Utah State as a working member with them. Other key players that can be used as consultants to the project include Glenn Hanson and/or Steve Harrison.

It would be good to have AD/HOC people represented as a part of this group; advisors or actual group members. There is a need to identify any and all possible work group members.

Dwayne Baird, the new SAMH Information Officer, will be a member of this working group. He will be with the Division as of April 3, 2006.

We need to consider having someone from CSAP come to give the group an information “boost.”

Ed Ho felt it would be possible to share information from the New Mexico report, but it would be “bare bones,” because the report has yet to be finalized. SEOW would have a basic idea of what should be considered to gather needed data.

What is the overall goal for this group? Keep this question in mind because we will need to give periodic updates to our State Board about what is happening.

- What would be the best way to survey high school students?
- What would be a possible timeline?
- Is it really just focus on any substance abuse data, or should we go on from there?
- NOMS – treatment NOMS has a separate grant.
- If you were to bring in treatment or mental health issues, would the prevention angle be lost?
- Could the AD/HOC subcommittee also be a “focus group?”

Ed Ho cautioned the group to get all the necessary data together, with a working deadline of 30 November, 2006.

The infra structure / data structure, is already strong here, so we can give and gain varied information.

How often should group meet?

Should the group meet on a monthly basis? This would be okay to begin with, then could decide a more permanent schedule later. A meeting time of 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. was chosen. The first Thursday of each month is a possibility

Bach-Harrison: What would this agency need from us? Craig PoVey will meet with them to determine what they can provide and how much time they will be able to commit to this project.